Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~actively auditing~~ <u>enhancing fault tolerance of</u> a software system ~~to determine status~~, the software system comprising a plurality of <u>active</u> processes executed in an active processor domain, the method comprising the steps of:

   generating an active message for processing by the active processor domain;

   generating a modified active message by providing an active time indicator associated with the active message for <u>each</u> ~~at least one process~~ of the plurality of <u>active</u> processes; [[and]]

   ~~determining the status of the active processor domain in response to the modified active message~~

   <u>generating a stand-by message for processing in a stand-by processor domain, the stand-by processor domain comprising a plurality of stand-by processes;</u>

   <u>generating a modified stand-by message by providing a stand-by time indicator for each of the plurality of stand-by processes in the stand-by domain;</u>

   <u>generating a statistical characteristic for the modified active message; and</u>

   <u>based on the statistical characteristic, interchanging the stand-by processor domain with the active processor domain.</u>

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ <u>further comprising</u> the step of determining [[the]] <u>a</u> status of the active processor domain <u>in response</u> ~~is responsive~~ to the active time indicator.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>2</u> wherein a respective active time indicator is associated with each process of the plurality of processes, and

wherein the step of determining the status of the active processor domain is responsive to more than one of the active time indicators.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active time indicator comprises a time-stamp indicating the time the at least one process completed processing the active message.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the active time indicator comprises a time-stamp indicating the time elapsed while the at least one process processed the active message.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the step of determining [[a]] the statistical characteristic comprises generating a time average of the duration of the at least one process of the plurality of processes for a plurality of active messages.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of determining [[a]] statistical characteristic comprises generating a standard deviation from the time average.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[wherein 9]] 1, further comprising the step of determining [[the]] a status of the stand-by processor domain is responsive in response to the stand-by time indicator.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 10 wherein a respective stand-by time indicator is associated with each process of the plurality of stand-by processes of the stand-by domain and wherein the step of determining the status of the stand-by processor domain is responsive to at least two of the stand-by time indicators.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A system for ~~actively auditing~~ <u>enhancing fault tolerance of</u> a software system ~~to determine status~~ comprising:

an active processor domain, the active processor domain having at least one <u>active</u> processor, the at least one <u>active</u> processor executing at least one <u>active</u> process, the at least one <u>active</u> process receiving an active message and generating a modified active message in response thereto;

[[a]] <u>an active</u> time-stamp mechanism in communication with the at least one <u>active</u> process and for providing an active time indicator <u>for each of the at least one active processor</u> for use in generation of the modified active message; [[and]]

<u>a stand-by processor domain, the stand-by processor domain having at least one stand-by processor, the at least one stand-by processor executing at least one stand-by process, the at least one stand-by process receiving a stand-by message and generating a modified stand-by message in response thereto;</u>

<u>a stand-by time-stamp mechanism in communication with the at least one stand-by process and for providing a stand-by time indicator for use in generation of the modified stand-by message;</u> and

a redundancy manager in communication with the active processor domain <u>and the stand-by processor domain</u>, the redundancy manager ~~determining~~ <u>interchanging, based on a statistical characteristic for the modified active message,</u> the ~~status of~~ active processor domain ~~in response to the modified active message~~ <u>with the stand-by processor domain</u>.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the redundancy manager determines [[the]] <u>a</u> status of the active processor domain in response to the active time indicator.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the active time indicator comprises a time-stamp indicating [[the]] <u>a</u> time <u>at which</u> the at least one process ~~completed~~ <u>completes</u> processing the active message.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the active time indicator comprises a time-stamp indicating the time elapsed while the at least one active ~~process processed~~ processor processes the active message.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[13]] 14 wherein the redundancy manager ~~determines a statistical characteristic of the active processor domain and~~ determines the status of the active processor domain in response to the statistical characteristic.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the statistical characteristic comprises a time average of the duration of the at least one active process.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the statistical characteristic comprises a standard deviation of the ~~time average~~ duration of the at least one active process.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).